

1 DAVID L. ANDERSON (CABN 149604)
United States Attorney

2 HALLIE HOFFMAN (CABN 210020)
3 Chief, Criminal Division

4 ROBERT DAVID REES (CABN 229441)
Assistant United States Attorney

5 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055
6 San Francisco, California 94102-3495
7 Telephone: (415) 436-7210
8 FAX: (415) 436-7234
Robert.rees@usdoj.gov

9 Attorneys for United States of America

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.
14 Plaintiff,)	
15 v.)	COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE
16 APPROXIMATELY \$520,446)	
17 Defendant.)	
18)	
19)	

20 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

21 1. This is a judicial forfeiture action, as authorized by 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6), involving the
22 seizure of approximately \$520,446 in United States Currency which was seized as money and property
23 furnished or intended to be furnished by a person in exchange for a controlled substance, or money
24 traceable to such an exchange, or money used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation Subchapter
25 1, Chapter 13 of Title 21, United States Code. Additionally, the money was seized as money and
26 property relating to a conspiracy to launder money in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section
27 1956(h).

28 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

2. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355(a), and 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

3. Venue is proper because the defendant currency was seized in the Northern District of California. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355(b) and 1395.

4. Intra-district venue is proper in the San Francisco Division within the Northern District of California.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is the United States of America.

6. The defendant is approximately \$520,446 in United States currency (“defendant \$520,446”), seized from 5933 Dutyville Road, Garberville, CA APN: 221-111-024 on or about November 20, 2019.

FACTS

7. In November 2019, agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) and officers with the North State Major Investigation Team (“NSMIT”) initiated an investigation into several rural properties located in and around Garberville, CA. Of relevance to this action was a parcel of property located at 5933 Dutyville Road, Garberville, CA (“subject property”), and the person suspected of being associated with it, Todor HRISTOV.

8. Agents received information from a Confidential Source¹ (CS-1) which indicated that individuals were possibly involved in marijuana cultivation and marijuana trafficking in parcels in the area of 5933 Dutyville Road, Garberville, CA. Per CS-1, the subject property is used to grow marijuana and to store marijuana, marijuana proceeds, and items associated with marijuana trafficking. CS-1 further explained that s/he recently observed a large quantity of marijuana and items associated with marijuana sales at the subject property.

9. As a result of CS-1’s information and a flyover of the property, agents secured a state search warrant, which was signed on November 15, 2019 by the Honorable Lawrence Killoran, Judge of

¹ CS-1 has cooperated with law enforcement on several cases which have resulted in the arrest of individuals, seizure of large quantities of narcotics, and narcotics proceeds. CS-1 has not been known to provide untruthful, misleading, or false information to law enforcement. CS-1 is currently providing information for monetary compensation.

1 the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt.

2 10. On November 20, 2019, agents and officers executed the search warrant at five separate
3 locations to include the subject property. No occupants were located on the subject property. A search of
4 trails that led away from the structure on the property revealed several depressions near the trail in a
5 heavily wooded area. Agents dug in the depressions, which eventually revealed three separate Pelican
6 cases wrapped in black garbage bags. Inside the three Pelican cases was a total of \$520,446 in U.S.
7 Currency. A search of a nearby structure revealed 7 additional opened Pelican cases that were dirty on
8 the exterior, consistent with being buried in the ground recently. There was no currency in those Pelican
9 Cases, but there were rubber bands and small chits of paper, with numbers written on them, that would
10 indicate that the cases had recently contained currency. Also located in the structure was indicia with the
11 name of Todor HRISTOV on it that appeared to be a receipt for service from a Lexus auto dealership in
12 Walnut Creek, CA.

13 11. Research into the subject property where the funds were seized indicates that Humboldt
14 County APN 221-111-024 was purchased by Ivan Petrov ILIEV and Todor Stoyanov HRISTOV on
15 September 12, 2011. The property was purchased for \$250,000, with an approximate down payment of
16 \$50,000. The balance of the purchase amount was financed with a deed of trust in the amount of
17 \$200,000 from the sellers. On July 19, 2012, ILIEV transferred his interest in APN 221-111-024 to
18 HRISTOV. The property tax statements for APN 221-111-024 have been mailed to HRISTOV at 4149
19 Wildridge Road, Garberville, CA 95542. It is believed that address, where the subject property tax
20 statements are mailed, is a transposition of 4149 Wilder Ridge. 4149 Wilder Ridge, Garberville, CA is a
21 parcel owned by Georgui S. MOLLOV. MOLLOV purchased 4149 Wilder Ridge from Ivan ILIEV on
22 June 15, 2016. It is believed MOLLOV is a nominee owner of 4149 Wilder Ridge.

23 12. On November 21, 2019 Task Force Detective Corin Priest utilized her certified drug
24 detection canine "Max" to conduct a sniff of the U.S. currency seized the day before from the subject
25 property. "Max" exhibited a change in behavior which indicated to Det. Priest that the odor of narcotics
26 was emanating from the currency.

27 13. Agents also received information from CS-1 that indicated a number of properties in
28 Garberville, CA, including the subject property, were being used as grow sites for marijuana to be sold

1 on the black market to large scale narcotics traffickers in both California and out of state. CS-1 advised
2 that the marijuana was not being sold to legal marijuana dispensaries in California.

3 **VIOLATION**

4 The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs one through 13 as
5 though fully set forth.

6 Section 881(a)(6) of Title 21 of the United States Code, provides for the forfeiture of all money
7 furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed
8 chemical in violation of Subchapter I, Chapter 13 of Title 21 United States Code, all proceeds traceable
9 to such an exchange and all money used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of Subchapter I,
10 Chapter 13 of Title 21, United States Code.

11 Section 981(a)(1)(A) of Title 18 of the United States Code, provide for the forfeiture of any
12 property involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of section 1956, 1957, or 1960 of
13 Title 18, or any property traceable to such property.

14 In light of the foregoing, defendant \$520,446 as specified above, is subject to judicial forfeiture.

15 * * * * *

16 WHEREFORE, plaintiff United States of America requests that due process issue to enforce the
17 forfeiture of defendant \$520,446; that notice be given to all interested parties to appear and show cause
18 why forfeiture should not be decreed; that judgment of forfeiture be entered; that the Court enter
19 judgment forfeiting defendant \$520,446; and that the United States be awarded such other relief as may
20 be proper and just.

21
22 DATED: May 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

23 DAVID L. ANDERSON
24 United States Attorney

25 _____/s_____
26 ROBERT DAVID REES
27 Assistant United States Attorney
28

VERIFICATION

I, Geoff S. Kolanowski, state as follows:

1. I am a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. I am the case agent assigned to this case. As such, I am familiar with the facts, and the investigation leading to the filing of this Complaint for Forfeiture.

2. I have read the Complaint and believe the allegations contained in it to be true.

* * * * *

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 14th day of May, 2020 in San Francisco, California.

_____/s_____
GEOFF S. KOLANOWSKI
Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
AUSA Robert D. Rees
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-436-7210

DEFENDANTS
Approximately \$520,446

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities--Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities--Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury -- Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITIONS HABEAS CORPUS <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee--Conditions of Confinement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC § 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent--Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS--Third Party 26 USC § 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation--Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation--Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6)
Brief description of cause:
Drug Related Forfeiture

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. ☐ DEMAND \$ ☐

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE ☐

DOCKET NUMBER ☐

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)
(Place an "X" in One Box Only) ☒ SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND ☐ SAN JOSE ☐ EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 05/14/2020

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Robert D. Rees